

World War II as a United States Navy Gun-nery Mate. After the war he earned a degree in agriculture. Throughout his life he has shared with high school and college students his knowledge of agriculture. He has been involved with the 4-H Club, Southern Illinois Agri-Business Club, King City Dinner Club, and American Legion Post 141. Ardell is actively involved at Central Christian Church where he serves in numerous ways. He and his wife, Wilma, have also raised two daughters and one son.

I want to congratulate and thank Ardell for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KENNARD CLASSICAL JUNIOR ACADEMY FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by Kennard Classical Junior Academy, in the St. Louis Public Schools District.

In April the school was named one of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by staff and students at Kennard Classical Junior Academy is top flight, considering that some 35 highly competitive public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year.

Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the state, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, MO, the State Capital.

To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

Established in 1991, the Gold Star Schools program is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years.

Mr. Speaker, there is something extra special about Kennard Classical Junior Academy. While the school sits in South St. Louis, in the neighboring 3rd Congressional District, I readily share my joy in this achievement because my daughter, Carol, is a student at Kennard and shares in her school's success as well.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the state of Missouri, with three in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the state achieve "Gold Star" status.

At that time we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of

students. If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decision-makers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

RECOGNITION OF REV. LEROY DUDE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Rev. Leroy Dude of Jefferson County, IL. Leroy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Leroy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. For 45 years Reverend Dude served as pastor of West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church. He performed many baptisms, weddings, and funerals; as well as mowing the lawns of others, helping to paint barn roofs, and planting trees. Leroy also has served as trustee and clerk of Shiloh Township. He and his late wife raised five children.

I want to congratulate and thank Leroy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PIERRE LACLEDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by a public school in my district—Pierre Laclede Elementary School, in the St. Louis Public Schools District.

In April the school was named one of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by staff and students at Pierre Laclede Elementary School was one of three schools in my district so honored. Some 35 public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year.

Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the State, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, MO, the State capital.

To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

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Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the State of Missouri, with three in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the State achieve "Gold Star" status and we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of students.

If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decisionmakers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION OF THE SHIRLEY GRALLA GIRLS' ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT BE'ER HAGOLAH INSTITUTES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley Gralla, a life-long supporter of Jewish education around the world, on the dedication of the Shirley Gralla Girls' Elementary School at Be'er Hagolah Institutes in Brooklyn, NY.

As a child in the early 1920s, Shirley Gralla came to America from Eastern Europe in search of the "American Dream." As an adult, she has dedicated her life to making that dream a reality for thousands of Jewish immigrant children. With her husband Milton, Shirley helped transform Be'er Hagolah Institutes into the largest school in the United States designed to attract and educate Jewish children from the former Soviet Union. The Center, which was established in 1979, educates nearly one thousand students from kindergarten through grade 12, and has a policy of turning no child away for financial reasons. In fact, most of the student body receives a full or partial scholarship.

Shirley and Milton have endowed and named schools in Odessa, Ukraine; Kiev, Ukraine; Moscow, Russia, and Jerusalem, Israel. She has initiated a family sponsored endowment of a floor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, for the study of brain disorders. More recently, Shirley helped to create the Brandeis University "Genesis" Program, which invites Jewish teens from around the United States to participate in an enriching Judaic and academic experience at the university's campus in Waltham, Massachusetts. For these and other achievements, Shirley Gralla has been named a Fellow at Brandeis University and a Doctor of Humane Letters by Yeshiva University.

When the need for new facilities at the Be'er Hagolah Institutes became obvious ten years ago, Shirley and Milton rose to the challenge.